

What is claimed is:

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1. A cable modem comprising:

a cable modem proper that is connected by way of a coaxial cable to a CATV network;

5 an expansion unit having a wireless LAN function that permits communication with an information processing terminal on a wireless basis; and

a connecting member that removably couples the cable modem proper and the expansion unit together by use of a plug and a connector.

10 2. A cable modem as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the plug is a plug for a LAN cable and the connector is a connector for a LAN cable.

3. A cable modem as claimed in claim 1,

15 wherein a bit error rate of the expansion unit is measured at regular time intervals so that an output level and a data transfer rate are varied according to measurement results in order to keep communication quality above a predetermined level.

20 4. A cable modem as claimed in claim 3,

wherein the cable modem has a function of transmitting information on how much to increase or decrease the output level according to the measurement results to an interface portion of the information processing terminal that communicates with the cable modem on a wireless basis.

5. A cable modem as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the cable modem proper comprises a tuner, a demodulator, a modulator, a first and a second medium access controller, and a CPU,

5 the tuner selecting information received from the CATV network, converting the selected information into an intermediate frequency and then feeding it to the demodulator, and conversely transmitting information fed from the modulator to the CATV network,

10 the first medium access controller classifying information fed from the demodulator and information fed through the expansion unit from the information processing terminal into signals to be processed inside the cable modem and signals to be transmitted to the information processing terminal and to the CATV network,

15 the second medium access controller converting and exchanging data between the cable modem proper and the expansion unit.

6. A cable modem as claimed in claim 5,

wherein the CPU controls direction and timing in and with which to output information.

20 7. A cable modem as claimed in claim 5,

wherein the CPU measures a bit error rate and controls an output level of the expansion unit according to the measured bit error rate.

8. A cable modem as claimed in claim 5,
wherein the CPU measures a bit error rate and controls a data transfer rate
according to the thus measured bit error rate.